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cepted as a thorough and careful piece of work. They are Adolph J. Rodenbeck, William B. Hornblower, John G. Milburn and Adelbert Moot. If any member of the bar still entertains serious doubt on the subject, every vestige will be dissipated by an examination of the work itself.

It is to be borne in mind that the Board has not attempted to *revise* the statutes of this State. Pursuant to instructions from the Legislature, it has contented itself with *consolidating* those statutes. These Consolidated Laws, therefore, if enacted, will not change our statutes. The substance of those statutes will be the substance of the Consolidated Laws; and the only changes from existing session laws will be those in form or language which were necessary to weld them together. Hence, it would seem that there should be no opposition from any quarter to the speedy adoption of this report by the next Legislature. We are pleased to learn that the report has met with a favorable reception by members of the bar who have examined it, and that its enactment into law has been earnestly requested by so influential a body as the Bar Association of New York City.

A CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND: A Course of Lectures. By F. W. MAITLAND. Cambridge: The University Press. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS. 1908. pp. xxviii, 547.

When it was announced that a course of lectures delivered by Professor Maitland in 1887-1888 was being prepared for the press, some of his admirers must have felt misgivings. Posthumous works, like those of Stubbs, originating as lectures intended for undergraduates, have in some cases detracted from an author's reputation, and the publication of Maitland's lectures might have diminished his fame. But such fears have not been justified. On the contrary, these lectures, though they do not profess to give the results of much original research, are a remarkable performance, which bears eloquent testimony to Maitland's genius and confirms the general verdict that he was one of the most masterly historians that England has ever produced. We must indeed welcome the publication of this book, because it gives us some of his ideas concerning the history of English law from Edward I's time onward, and because, as the editor says, there is no book "which provides so good an introduction to the study of English Constitutional History, or which is likely to be more highly valued by practical teachers of the subject at our Universities."

The work professes to give a sketch of English public law and institutions at five periods, 1307, 1509, 1625, 1702, and "the present day" (the last quarter of the nineteenth century), but in reality it sets forth the history of law and government from the earliest times. Though subjects like feudalism, classes of society, kingship, parliament, the privy council, taxation and military affairs receive adequate attention; emphasis is placed on legal development, and Maitland seems to have conceived his topic to be the history of public law rather than constitutional history. Naturally too we find most originality displayed in his treatment of legal institutions (for example, the admirable accounts of Edward I's legislation, pp. 18-21, and of Henry II's legal reforms and the development of trial by jury (pp. 111-

131); while much of his information regarding other matters was derived from authors like Stubbs, Dicey and Anson. Many of the ideas which he sets forth in the lectures on the period to 1307 were developed in his History of English Law, to which the editor gives frequent references in the foot-notes.

The style is remarkably lucid, better adapted to the needs of undergraduates than that of the author's later works. Here and there, however, we have some of those playful touches which enliven the pages of his History of English Law. For example, p. 142: "Now were an examiner to ask who introduced the feudal system into England? one very good answer, if properly explained, would be Henry Spelman." Again, p. 418: "There is one term against which I wish to warn you and that term is 'the crown.' You will certainly read that the crown does this and the crown does that. As a matter of fact we know that the crown does nothing but lie in the Tower of London to be gazed at by sight-seers."

The editor, H. A. L. Fisher of New College, Oxford, has done his work well, though there are some manifest errors which will doubtless be corrected in forthcoming editions. The editor's foot-note references to recent works are not numerous, but they are selected with discretion and cover some of the more important topics examined in Maitland's lectures.

THE POWERS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. By MASUJI MIYAKAWA. 2nd Ed. New York: THE BAKER & TAYLOR CO. 1908. pp. xiv, 431.

This is an interesting book, particularly to a student of comparative politics. The author is a man of large and varied learning, and reasonably familiar with the political systems of the principal European nations. He has made a careful and profitable study of all the leading cases in constitutional and international law that have been adjudicated by the United States Supreme Court. In fact, these adjudged cases form the substance of his book, to which are appended the text of Magna Carta, the Constitution of Japan, the Declaration of American Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States.

The book is thoroughly up to date. Authorities are cited as recent as the address of President-elect Taft to the Brooklyn Bar Association in February, 1908. It is easy to see how a second edition of this work has been called for within the short space of two years. Our author in his political sympathies is thoroughly American, while not devoted to any narrow school of constitutional interpretation, nor holding a brief for any cause. He is an extravagant eulogist of the Monroe Doctrine, of trial by jury, and of the American Bench and Bar. On page 11 he sounds his keynote by saying that "the American people are, from every point of view, sovereign, omnipotent, and that they can do no wrong. Let us now proceed a step toward proving the strength, beauty and immortality of the republic—the only real republic the world has ever begotten." Our author has no sense of humor. If he had, he would join us in a smile at some observations like the following, on page 326: "It is not in the least exaggerating to say that the leaders of the American Bar, in a large city like New York, enjoy yearly incomes of about \$500,000;" or at this, on page